



John Reich Journal

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June 2010

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
Life Membership\$625.00

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or articles for publication, please contact:

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1831 half dollar with obverse 7 on one side and an incuse impression (brockage) of obverse 7 on the other
Photo Courtesy of Henry Hilgard.

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John Reich Journal

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John Reich Collectors Society

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Editors' Comments

The ANA show is fast approaching and many of you are making final plans for your attendance. Mark your calendars for the following dates: Annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 11th at 8AM. The room number will be published in the ANA guide available at the show, online when the ANA posts the schedule and in the next issue of The Numismatist. We will announce the location of the annual open house at the meeting. The open house is an informal gathering of members in a hotel room after bourse hours to share conversation and coins. All members of the organization are welcome.

Our program chair, Dr. Glenn Peterson has informed me that we will have Jim Matthews as our annual speaker. He will be talking on collecting bust dimes by die marriage. I'm sure Jim will have something special to share with us.

There is a Numismatic Theatre presentation scheduled for Friday afternoon August 13th that may be of interest to the membership. There will be a panel discussion/presentation on the screwpress. The meeting will be moderated by me, and the panel will include Dr. Richard Doty of The Smithsonian, John Dannreuther, Bill Eckberg, R.W. (Bob) Julian, Doug Mudd and Craig Sholley. Questions will be welcomed from the audience during the presentation. Here is your chance to learn more about the minting practices of the early U.S. Mint from some of the best numismatic researchers of our time. Please see the ANA schedule for more information on room and time.

JRCS has followed the example set by the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and began a Hall of Fame. This year we will welcome the first inductees into our hall. We accepted nominations from the membership in two categories modern and veteran. The modern category is for nominees who have been a member of the organization. The veteran category is for people who participated in the hobby before the advent of the JRCS. This year the nominees for the modern category were; David Davis, Russell Logan, John McCloskey and Jules Reiver. The veteran nominees were Milferd Bolender, Ard Browning, Al Overton and Daniel Valentine. The inductees will be announced at the annual meeting.

I was recently informed by our dime census keeper that he will no longer be able to continue in that capacity. We need a volunteer from the membership to assume his duties. You will be asked to compile the census reports from the membership into a spreadsheet and supply it for publication. You will also be asked to write a few paragraphs to go with the census. Please reply to me at the email address listed on the inside cover of the journal if you are interested in helping.

Speaking of census reports, the next issue will feature the Bust Dollar Census. All members who own any bust dollars are requested to send their information to W. David Perkins for inclusion in his study. Remember to include any duplicates and die states in your submission. We look forward to seeing the results in the next issue.

Collectors of the Capped Bust Half dollars will find the census for that series included in this journal. There are more halves represented than coins for other denominations. A study of the figures provided by Steve Herrman will reveal some interesting insights into this fascinating series.

This is the final issue of volume 20 and we are requesting dues for the next volume of the journal. If you have received a dues notice in the envelope with your journal our records indicate that you need to renew your membership. If you have NOT received a notice with this issue you are either a life member or have already paid for volume 21. Please forward your check to Steve as soon as possible to avoid missing any issues.

There is also a ballot in the envelope for your votes for the Jules Reiver Literary Award. You may vote for UP TO three articles on the ballot. Each year we ask the membership to vote for their favorite article that appeared in the journal for the previous volume. Each author is eligible to win the award when their submission is printed in the journal. The winner will receive an award plaque at the annual meeting in Boston. Send your votes to Steve with your dues check now!

We are always looking for submissions for the journal. You can write anything from a short letter to the editor to a full length research paper on any subject pertaining to the Mint or the coinage from 1794 to 1838. If you have any questions about submitting something for publication you can contact me via email at jrcs19@roadrunner.com. I look forward to hearing from potential new (and old) authors soon.

BUST DOLLAR COLLECTORS

The Bust Dollar Census will be included in the next issue of the journal. You are encouraged to send your census including duplicates and die states to

W. David Perkins at wdperki@attglobal.net

Or, you can send a hard copy to

**JRCS Dollar Census
PO Box 135
Harrison, OH 45030**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1824 JR-2 or 1829 JR-10? Which is Rarer?

By Jim Koenings

In the March, 2009 JRCS Dime Census, 3 Capped Bust Dimes were rated R-5+. They were as follows:

| <u>Variety</u> | <u>Rarity</u> | <u>Number Reported</u> |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1824 JR-2 | R-5+ | 15 |
| 1827 JR-2 | R-5+ | 22 |
| 1829 JR-10 | R-5+ | 9 |

However, the 9 shown for 1829 JR-10 is very misleading as it has been listed in the “Red Book” for many years and several specimens are owned by non-JRCS members. One JRCS member has been studying 1829 Curl Base 2 dimes for many years and it is now time to find out which variety 1824 JR-2 or 1829 JR-10 is rarer.

Having studied 1824 dimes for nearly 25 years, I am now starting my 2nd book, this time a pictorial census on 1824 JR-2 Dimes. This 2nd book will be very important as 1824 JR-2 will also be listed in the “Red Book”, for the 1st time, when the 2011 edition comes out in April, 2010. It is now very important that members send me scans of their 1824 JR-2 dimes as this book will accomplish two things. First it will authenticate and pedigree your coins and second, it will allow anyone who finds a new specimen, to know immediately where his/her coin ranks.

Since the JRCS Dime Census only shows the top 15 collections, grades of duplicates and members who had less than the top 15 collections are especially important to me. Please email your scans to bustcoin1@verizon.net . If you have photos of your 1824 JR-2 dimes, you can send them to:

Jim Koenings
P.O. Box 2382
Riverside, CA 92516

Again, if you are unable to send a scan or photo, please send your coin insured to the above address and I will scan your coin. I will then refund your costs plus return your coin insured and you will receive a complimentary copy of the new book when it comes out. In my book on 1827 JR-2 Dimes, 4 collectors sent me their coins.

Book on 1827 JR-2 Dimes NOW AVAILABLE

After 14 months of research, the book “1827 JR-2 - The Most Underrated Capped Bust Dime Die Variety” was finally printed in early January, 2010. Only 100 copies were printed. The book has 49 pages of which 43 have color photos. This book is softbound with Mylar covers and has a comb binding that allows you to open the book and lay it flat to compare photos. Each specimen is shown on a separate page with obverse and reverse scans being 4 ½” in diameter. This book accounts for every known 1827 JR-2 dime, starting with the first JRCS Dime Census, published in the December, 1987 JR Journal. Each specimen is ranked, starting with the finest known, an AU-53 specimen owned by JRCS #1050 down to an AG-3 holed example.

Early last year, I made recommendations for certain die varieties to be added to the Red Book. A reliable source has told me that the 1827 JR-2 (also known as the “Flat Top 1 in 10C variety”) will be a new addition to the 2011 Red Book when it comes out in April, 2010.

Many copies have already been either sold or given as complimentary copies to contributors, friends and family. Approximately 30 copies of this book are being held for JRCS members that would like a copy. I am now offering this book to JRCS members for \$24 each which includes mailing costs. If you would like a copy, please send a check or money order to:

Jim Koenings
P.O. Box 2382
Riverside, CA 92516

JRCS members can reserve a copy by emailing me at [**bustcoin1@verizon.net**](mailto:bustcoin1@verizon.net).

From the Treasurer

W. David Perkins

JRCS would like to again thank Steve Herrman for his ongoing support of JRCS and for his recent donation of \$305.00 from the sale of his Autumn 2009 revision of his Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized (AMBPR) for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839. For many years Steve has donated \$2.50 for each copy sold.

And thanks to all the members of JRCS for their donations in 2009-10, as well as in prior years. A fair number of members send in their annual membership dues with a little extra marked for a donation. It is always appreciated and helps to keep our club's membership dues at a reasonable level.

MORE EARLY SILVER AT THE EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS CONVENTION

The 2010 Early American Coppers convention in Annapolis Maryland is now history and JRCS members were once again invited guests at the meeting. For those who have not attended one of these conventions I strongly encourage you give it a try. For those who have, you know what I mean. The silver highlights of these shows include a “happenings” where varieties are displayed for all to see on Thursday evening, an occasional “whist” match; and a surprising number of early silver transactions which seem to occur at this venue. Educational seminars pepper the schedule on Friday and Saturday and many are quite germane to early silver. Two of this years talks were Mark Borchardt who gave an especially entertaining talk on the early minting process and Dave Bowers who headlined the Friday evening talks with a vertiable whos who in numismatics replete with backstories I had certainly never heard! These talks are recorded and available on DVD for those who missed the show.

This year the happenings displayed all early silver denominations for the first time. The 1798 B8 dollar had three examples of different die states, The 1819 B4 quarter had 10 different examples...hard to not like this die marriage with the multiple die breaks through the date. Both cuds of the 1834 JR-5 dimes made cameo appearances; and as always the early halves were well represented by two denominations (1814 O-106 and 1827 O-140). Finally, the half dimes had a beautiful display of 1833 LM3.1-3.5.

At this show several high grade early quarters changed hands and at least one early dollar also was traded. It was not the same as a prior EAC show where a dozen of the Charlton Meyers coins were sold but one can hardly expect collections like his to appear on a regular basis. I was not privy to all the back room deals but the quiet and secure nature of this event certainly encourages sharing and trading of our beloved early silver alongside copper coins.

At last years event(2009) we even had an early quarter whist match with five members participating. We threw down(OK, carefully placed down) the large size bust quarters with the “spiked reverse” on the lower arrow; namely 1824, 1825 B1, and 1828 B2. I am pleased to announce I finished first on absolutely no coins....but boy did I see some cool stuff. This is a copper tradition which perhaps started in the early 1900s with large cents and I am anxious to see it move to early silver as well. This is the perfect venue.

The open arms given us by EAC allows us to have a convention we can otherwise simply not afford. Furthermore, the EAC members have been genuinely enthusiastic about our coins and I am surprised how many simply want to share any early silver examples they may own. This year several EAC members asked why JRCS turnout was a bit scant. I can only speculate. I do hope our members carve out a couple of days for this show. The current plan is to rotate this mid spring show so more members can at least periodically drive to the show. Next year the convention is in Portland Oregon May 12-15 co-hosted by yours truly and will subsequently move to Buffalo, NY on May 2-6 2012. We are interested in having you display your collection or literature as you wish...its your party! And don't forget early gold. See you in Portland.



1832 LM-8.1: The first use of reverse T.



1833 LM-3.5: The thirteenth and final use of reverse T.



An Attributable Bust Half Image on an 1837

Tennessee Note

Henry R. Hilgard

At the Whitman Baltimore Expo coin show in November, 2009, Stuart Levine brought out an amazing Tennessee exchange note that depicts the reverse of a capped bust half dollar in full mirror image (Figures 1 and 2). Stu insisted that the image had been taken directly from a genuine bust half dollar, and he asked for some attribution help. Because the note was issued in 1837, it seemed logical to start with the reverses of 1836, the last year of the capped bust half dollar. Out came the Overton book, but there were no matches for 1836. And similarly, no matches for 1835, 1834, or 1833. But just as hope was fading, along came 1832 reverse C, used only (so far as we know) on the Overton 103 variety. That was it! David Kahn carefully studied the note and confirmed the attribution.

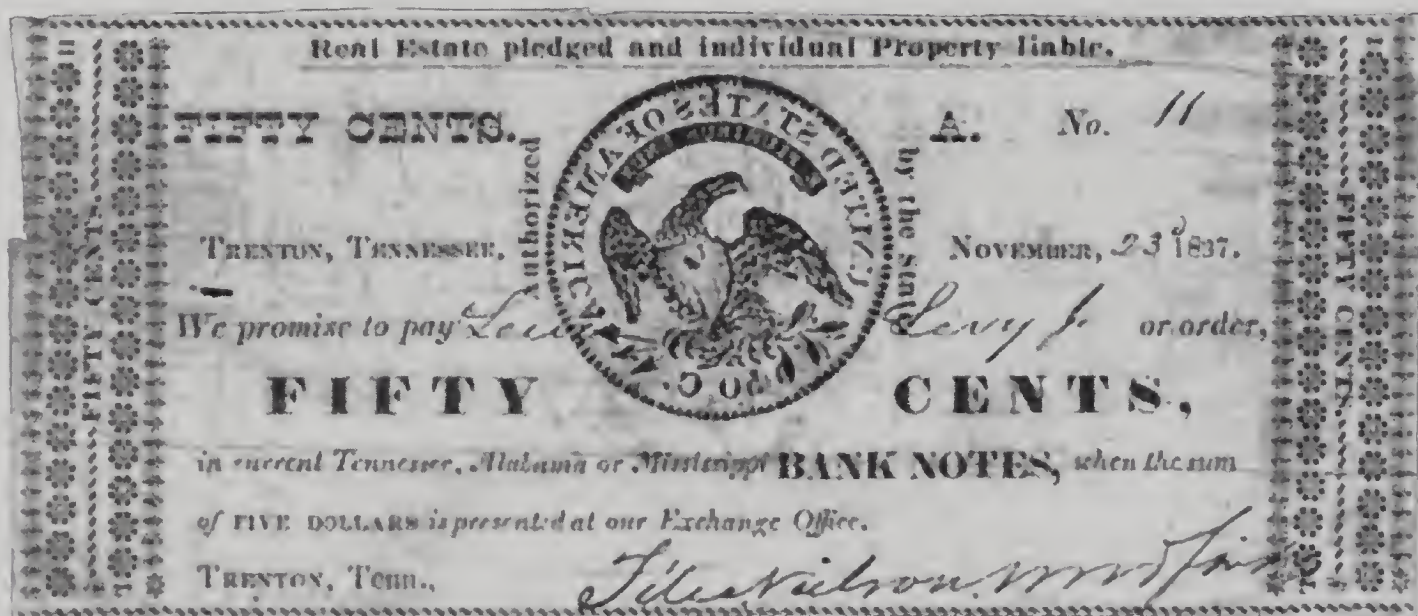


Figure 1. 1837 Tennessee Note.

This remarkable note was lot # 4424 in Stack's auction of the Lawrence R. Stack Collection of Numismatic Images on American Paper Currencies (January 15, 2008). The note was issued in November of 1837 during the "Hard Times period" that began in earnest on May 10, 1837, when banks stopped giving out coins in exchange for currency¹. Banks and businesses throughout the country had failed and people were hoarding their coins. Notes like this one were issued to take the place of the absent coins, but most notes became worthless because the issuers were themselves headed for bankruptcy. And some of the notes were fraudulent from the outset. This particular note promises to pay the holder "fifty cents in current Tennessee, Alabama or

Mississippi banknotes” but only if “the sum of five dollars is presented at our exchange office”.

By what method was the mirror image of reverse C of 1832 transferred to this note? Bruce Hagen, who wrote the catalog description for this note, has suggested that the half dollar was inserted, reverse up, directly into a woodblock plate and left there during the printing of the note from the plate. If this were the case, it would certainly explain the presence of the mirror image.

What a pleasure it was to study this rare note, in exceptional condition, from a fascinating era in U.S. history, bearing an image of an attributable capped bust half dollar!



Figure 2. Enlargement of bust half mirror image from 1837 Tennessee Note.

Reference:

1. Yeoman, R. S., A Guide Book of United States Coins, 63rd Edition, 2010, p.384



Half Dime Brockage

Jonathan Brecher

A full brockage Capped Bust Half Dime recently appeared without fanfare on eBay, where it received little attention over the course of a five-day auction listing. The brockage exhibits a normal Reverse P on one side, with a second mirror image of Reverse P on the other side.

A brockage is a mint error in which a previously struck coin is pressed into a planchet during the course of striking, thereby producing a reversed and incused image in the second coin, mirroring the raised portions of the first. It is easy to imagine a coin sticking to the obverse die immediately after it was struck. The normal raised reverse of the struck coin would then be on the bottom of that die-with-stuck-coin combination, instead of the intended incuse obverse die face. The next coin struck would receive a normal reverse image from the unobstructed reverse die, while receiving a incuse image of the same reverse from the previous coin struck to the obverse die. This coin was produced in some fashion similar to that.

Since a brockage is produced normally up to the point of striking, its weight should not vary from any other example of the series. Indeed, this coin weighs 1.35 g, just as expected. Additionally, since this coin was struck within the collar, it also has a diameter of 15.5 mm, just as a non-error strike.

If the brockage was indeed formed from a previous coin that struck to the obverse die, it is most likely that the previous strike would preserve its original orientation without rotation relative to the reverse die. This coin does show an exact head-to-head alignment between the regular reverse and the brockage image on the other side.

A coin struck in silver is much softer than the hardened steel of a working die. If the previous coin remains stuck to the obverse die, it will likely get flattened and start to expand as it is struck repeatedly. A careful alignment of the obverse and reverse images of this coin using Photoshop shows that an expansion has already started: The brockage image is about 1.5% larger than the design elements on the other side. There is a very slight partial collar strike, with the unstruck portion on the side with the brockage. The expanded previous strike may have started to interfere with the normal placement of the collar. That seems especially likely considering Logan and McCloskey document that the obverse die approached with 0.003-0.005 inches (0.08-1.2 mm) of the collar even in normal circumstances.

Because of the brockage strike, this coin is undated. Reverse P was used to produce 1831 LM-6, 1832 LM-6, 1833 LM-5, 1833 LM-10, and 1835 LM-1. A 96-reed collar eliminates the last two possibilities. Logan and McCloskey describe four features that differentiate the reverse of 1832 LM-6 from 1831 LM-6:

- 1) Die crack forms along base of UNI to left edge of scroll.
- 2) Die crack forms from dentils through A1 to scroll over R.
- 3) Die crack forms from dentils to top of T3
- 4) Die crack forms from lower loop of S2 to center of O

Of those features, this specimen exhibits only the third, a die crack from the dentils to the top of T3. That suggests that this is either a very late strike of 1831 LM-6, or a very early strike of 1832 LM-6. Since 1831 LM-6 is an R-1 marriage while 1832 LM-6 is an R-4 marriage, the odds would suggest that this was produced in 1831.

Brockage errors are known for most series from half cents to silver dollars. There is even one known brockage on a gold coin. They are rare in all cases, however. The Logan collection included an 1832 half dime brockage with two obverses, graded VG-8. Other than that piece, however, this new discovery may be only the second brockage known for the entire Capped Bust Half Dime series.



A Numismatic Journey... The Excitement of the Hunt... An R-6+ Die Marriage Found

Larry Greenstone

First, I would like to present a little background to this recent “discovery”...

I have always been fascinated by coins. My primary interest has always been old ones and especially early US Type. Ever since I was a young boy collecting coins from change with my grandfather, an old worn Buffalo Nickel, Indian Head Cent or other classic coin has had the ability to bring me back in time. The story that each coin could tell would always stir my imagination. This aspect of coin collecting still fascinates me to this day. My interest in coins has been more from a socio-economic viewpoint than a technical one.

An obvious doubling, die crack or die clash has always gotten the collector in me excited, yet my interest in subtle die variances has only been recent. An amazingly original old coin that has many interesting stories to tell will always excite the collector in me. Die clashes and doubling, even when common, can still get me worked up. The same does not occur with me when I come across some die variety that requires major magnification and a road map to find. Sometimes, though, the hunt can consume me and the destination can be worth the trip, as in this case.

I had taken an extended hiatus from coin collecting when I became a teenager, not returning to the hobby until many years later, soon after my 40th birthday. Within a rather short period of time, I made up for lost time. I filled many sets, snatching up many of the coins I could only dream about as a child. Soon, I found myself with many more coins than I really should have gathered. As my knowledge and taste grew, I began to get more focused. Yet, what to do with all these “extras”? One thing led to another and I soon found myself setting up at local coin shows. My original intention was to do this for a short time, just to sell off the extras. However, once I found myself on “the other side of the table”, it was like getting a backstage pass. A whole new world of access to coins became available to me. Now I am a collector at heart while I am also a Coin Trader (a title I prefer to Coin Dealer).

When I began setting up at shows around several years ago, I knew far less than I do today. For instance, I owned some nice original Bust Halves yet had never heard of Overton and the Peterson book had not yet been published. The first time I set up at the

Parsippany show in New Jersey, I, of course, was cherry picked on at least more than one occasion. The first day there, a dealer, whom I later found out was a Bust Half specialist, looked over my display and asked for prices on 3 or 4 of my Bust Halves. He did not quibble with my prices and bought them. I was pleased as I had made a profit but around a half hour later, he came back to speak with me. First he told me, “Dude, you need to get an Overton book and learn to use it”. I asked him what he meant. He chuckled and rolled his eyes, then explained. He ended by saying, “If I come back in the future and see you have still not attributed your Bust Halves, I will continue to cherry pick you. I would have paid much more for the coins I bought. You need to learn or leave money on the table”. He never told me what he “found”, but I did buy the book and did learn how to use it.

Eventually I added the Peterson book and many others to my library. Now as I enjoy searching thru my coins, the stories around them have gained more texture and deeper meaning.

Now let's flash forward a few years, to a time when a vest pocket dealer began working with me. Quite often I found little in his offerings but every now and then he would pop up with a nice coin or two, at a fair price. I began to show him the types of coins that truly excited me and he made a point to search for them, sometimes with success.

On the few occasions he would present some Bust Halves, I noted that he never had them attributed. I often tried to pass on the lesson taught to me, yet he would always say that had no interest in such things. He had no intention of buying the Overton book, claiming that varieties were not his thing. I pressed the issue a number of times and finally gave up. Meanwhile, while he would come up with some nice material, he never came up with more than common R- 1 and occasional R-2 or 3 varieties.

Now on to the recent Parsippany show at the beginning of January, 2010. I had been especially busy at this show for a number of months and this show was not an exception. The vest pocket dealer approached my table early, as I was still setting up. He had not had much of interest for several months; we had chatted at recent shows but had not done much business. On this day, he told me he had one new coin that he was pretty sure I would like and that he could sell it for a fair price. So, of course, I asked to see it. It was a nice original, somewhat crusty Bust Half in choice XF. After looking it over I asked the price and liked the price, so I bought it. After thanking him and some general pleasantries, I put it in my newp (new purchase) box and on with the show.

A few days later, I pulled out my newps and began to go through them. This is a pleasurable time for me, as this is when the collector in me gets a good workout; grading and attributing while possibly “grazing” for an interesting addition to my personal collection (which is mainly a place for “wayward” coins i.e. nice lookers but with some issue or other).

Anyway, I come to this Bust Half. Looking at the date, I give out a small groan; it is an 1827 and these can be tough to attribute sometimes, with many choices to wade through. At least the Peterson book, with the quick find charts, makes the task a bit easier. Still, after a half hour and getting it narrowed down to a few possibilities, I began to get a bit of a “Sheldon” headache, as I call it. I put the books and coin away knowing that I’d get back to it later.

A few days later I went back and after some more process of elimination, I had it narrowed down to two probable choices. One was an R-3 marriage and the other an R-6, according to the Overton book. I was not willing to accept it might be an R-6 at this point and had no idea what kind of premium this would carry. I got a small flutter in my gut but shook it off and put the coin away again.

Now, a few days passed before I decided to get this all sorted out. First I cleared my desk and then made a stiff cup of coffee. I turned on all my available lights, got out all my loupes and now I was ready to get down to business. First, though, I told my cats to stay clear and not bother me and for the time in history, they actually listened.

This time I turned on my PC and pulled up the Heritage archives. There I found an example of the R-3 and after a few minutes became convinced that “my” coin was not that die marriage. Now I was getting excited.

I could not find an example of the R-6 at the Heritage site. So I took another look at the sparse info in Peterson and the terse description in Overton for the R-6. I thought to myself “This has to be it by process of elimination. I have ruled out the other choices but I’m still not convinced”. Besides, what would this mean in terms of value? Would it double or maybe triple? I had no idea.

Finally, I simply “googled” the date and Overton #... 1827 O-148 ...and lo and behold,

I get a hit. I find a link to a collection of Capped Bust Half die marriages sold thru Bowers & Merena around 8 years ago, complete with pictures and some descriptions. I was quickly able to confirm the “rule outs” with these pictures and then gingerly clicked on the O-148. With my heart beat speeding up, my palms becoming a bit clammy and nervously twitching in my chair, I looked at the pictures then looked at the coin in my hand and then read the description. Now my jaw kind of fell a bit and my eyes widened. “Holy *%#&”, I said out loud ... wow...

Still not ready to accept it all and celebrate, I quickly picked up the phone and called a good friend of mine (I’m glad to say), Mike Fey. I tried to remain calm and told him of my “possible discovery”. He, along with his son, pulled out his research papers and the appropriate books. He started shooting questions at me regarding key diagnostics and after a while he said, “I think you have it and it looks like it might be the 148a”, as the letter “F” in HALF on the edge lettering is mostly obliterated with only a few examples out those known have this diagnostic.

As providence would have it, the New Jersey Numismatic Society meeting (we are both members) was scheduled for that evening. We agreed to meet there and look it over together, in person. We did and after much scrutiny on his part, he shot me a big grin and gave me a big thumbs-up. “This is it! Congratulations!”

Now for the last leg of the hunt/journey, to have it authenticated and slabbed/graded by a TPG but which one? Considering the two “real” (in my mind) options became a bit ironic. PCGS would acknowledge the “a” BUT their holder would then cover up the reason for the “a”. Meanwhile, NGC would not acknowledge the “a” (which I learned in a phone call to a fellow society member, David Lange (their “head” attributor), BUT their holder would allow the reason for the “a” to be seen.

As you can see from the pictures, I opted for the NGC Edge View. I mailed the coin using the Express or Overnight option. Chose the Express one-day walk through grading tier, then “crossed my fingers”. Waiting for the results on a submission can always be a bit nerve racking and this wait, even though it was short, had me on pins and needles. That was on a Tuesday and by Thursday afternoon, I had my results. NGC graded the coin as an XF-45 and did, in fact, agree with the attribution. I was a happy camper, to say the least. I was still a bit numb and dreamlike about it, yet very happy.

The first thing I did, after excitedly getting off the phone with the NGC service representative, was call Mike Fey, to tell him the good news. I also thanked him for his help and support.

Next, I sent a hurried Private Message through the Coin Universe Forums, to a good friend whose main collecting interest is Capped Bust Halves by Variety. I playfully asked him, "Does 1827 O-148a ring a bell?" He replied, "Let me look that up." A few minutes later he replied again, "Do you actually have one?!?" We exchanged a few more messages with me giving a brief account of the story and him offering up his congratulations while expressing his friendly jealousy.

The next day, before NGC mailed the coin back to me, I received an email with the pictures of the slabbed and graded coin. I then got on the Coin Universe US Coin Forum, where I created a post that is the foundation of this article. Needless to say, it created quite a stir. I was contacted over the next few days by a number of people. Some folks wanted to simply congratulate me, while others were curious to know what plans I had for this coin.

Meanwhile, as I reflected on the events that began the day I originally acquired this coin, I was suddenly reminded of an ironic twist to the story. I recalled that shortly after I purchased this coin, another dealer and fellow forum member, had stopped at my table to buy some coins from me. Along with a number of other coins, I showed him this coin and offered it for a small mark-up... THANKFULLY he declined. I did tease him about it next time I saw him. I was gentle about it and thanked him profusely. While he was a bit amazed and also a little upset with himself, he admitted readily that if he had bought the coin from me, he would not have taken the time to attribute it. He would have simply sold it to someone else and who knows who might have one day made this "discovery"?

So, I conclude from this turn of events, that it is not enough to have the knowledge, one must employ that knowledge. Also it is important to remember that a significant degree of luck is involved in such discoveries. Yet, even more important, is to remember a continued lesson I need to drill into my head; never sell a coin until it has been as educated themselves on all relevant aspects of said coin.

Now it is time for the epilogue to my part in this story. The friend I mentioned earlier, whom I contacted by Private Message, spent a number of days driving his wife crazy. I found out that all she heard from him was about this coin. He bugged her incessantly, wanting to find a way to come up with the means to offer to buy the coin from me. It took

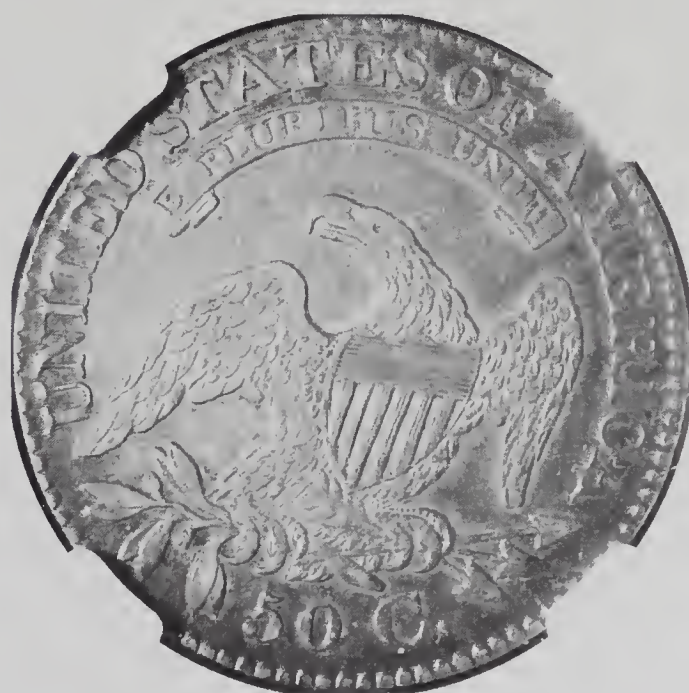
some wrestling, to say the least. I am pleased to conclude this story by sharing that this coin now has a “forever” home with a dedicated collector of modest means. This is a person who never, in a million years, would have expected to own such a coin. I know that he will appreciate this coin and that it will be the center-piece of his lifetime collection.

In closing, I can say that this is a milestone experience in my numismatic journey. It has been an exciting “moment” in my time as a collector and a wonderful learning experience. I hope that every collector gets the opportunity to have such an event take place along their journey.

Thank you for taking the time to read this story. May you always collect the coins you like and may you always like the coins that you collect.

Happy Numismatic Trails, everyone!!!

PS --- One of the folks who contacted me through the Coin Universe forum was a member of the John Reich Society. He thanked me for sharing my story and asked me if I would have an interest in “cleaning up” my post a bit, then submitting it to the Journal for publication. I was honored and quickly agreed. You have hopefully enjoyed this story, and, if so, a hearty thanks needs to be given to that individual. His name is Richard Meaney and I would like to thank him for the invitation to submit this story to the Journal.



1827 O148, NGC XF 45



An 1828 Bust Half With Edge Reeds

Dave Rubin

The seminal work on capped bust half edges is that of Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet (1987). They used edge die linkages to establish the emission order of capped bust half varieties and to determine the years in which the varieties were minted. According to them, and to general wisdom, the edges of capped bust halves dated 1807 through 1829 were plain (i.e. just lettered). The only exceptions were the 1809 varieties with xxx or // added to the edges.

Experimentation with the edges of bust half dollars began in 1830. According to Leaman and Gunnet, there were three edge types used in 1830: (type 1) the plain edge used since 1814; (type 2) with diagonal lines down to the right between the words; and (type 3) with diagonal lines down to the left between the words. In 1831, edge types were: (type 3) with diagonal lines to the left; (type 4) with straight, vertical lines; and (type 5) transitional, with lines of both types 3 and 4. Some 1830-dated bust halves have a type 4 edge (O-109) or a type 5 edge (O-108), but both of these 1830-dated varieties were produced in 1831 (Gunnet, 1987). The type 4 edge with straight, vertical lines was subsequently adopted for use after 1831 and, except for some plain edged 1836s, was used for all bust halves dated 1832 through 1836.

It was thus with great surprise that, upon examining the edge of an 1828 O-115 I had purchased on Ebay in 2009, I found it had straight, vertical lines (reeds). The reeding is not complete around the edge and is unevenly applied. Supposedly, reeds didn't appear until 1830 and none had straight, vertical reeds until 1831. Leaman and Gunnet noted 1828 O-115 as being struck in 1828 and sharing an edge die with O-116, O-120, O-122, and O-123. There were six 1828 varieties struck in 1829, but O-115 was not one of them. Thus it appears that my 1828 O-115, with vertical reeds, was struck three years earlier than the first reported use of vertical reeds on bust halves.

The Ebay listing had photos of obverse and reverse of the coin, but not the edge. When I finally examined the coin in hand, my first reaction was that the reeds were a later addition and thus not a mint product. Further examination, however, showed that some of the edge letters overlap with reeds and that the letters are on top of the reeds. Thus the coin had the reeds when it left the mint. Photos A and B show obverse and reverse of the coin. Photo C shows an edge view of this coin while photo D shows a comparable view of the edge of a normal 1828 O-115. Photos are courtesy of Jerry Wyson.

Comparison of the edge of the reeded 1828 half with a normal 1828 O-115 shows that the same edge dies were used for both. Easy to see matches between the two coins are: slightly higher H (HALF); A tilted from left to right; LAR lower than DOL (DOLLAR); second F tilted from left to right, FTY lower than FY, FTY farther apart than FIF (FIFTY); and T tilted from left to right, NT lower than CES (CENTS).

The fact that letters and reeds overlap, and that the letters appear to be on top of the reeds, answers a couple of questions. First, it appears that the letters and reeds were applied in two separate acts. It would not make sense to have overlapping designs engraved on one edge die for use in the Castaing machine. Second, since the letters appear to be on top of the reeds, it appears that the first act was application of the reeds, followed by application of the letters.

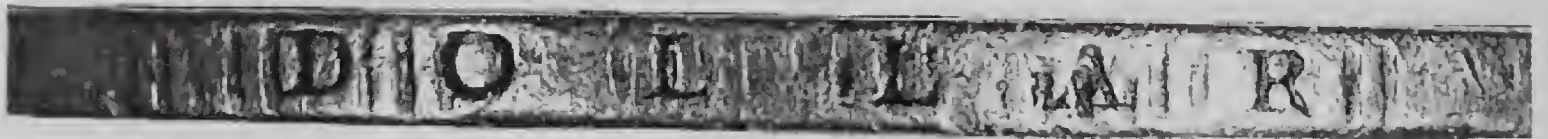
However, the key questions remain – why does this 1828 bust half with edge reeds exist, and how were the reeds applied? Some possible explanations can be reasonably dismissed while others remain problematic:

1) Did experimentation with edge reeds begin in 1828? Maybe, but why is there no record of it and why haven't other pre-1830 bust halves with edge reeds been found?

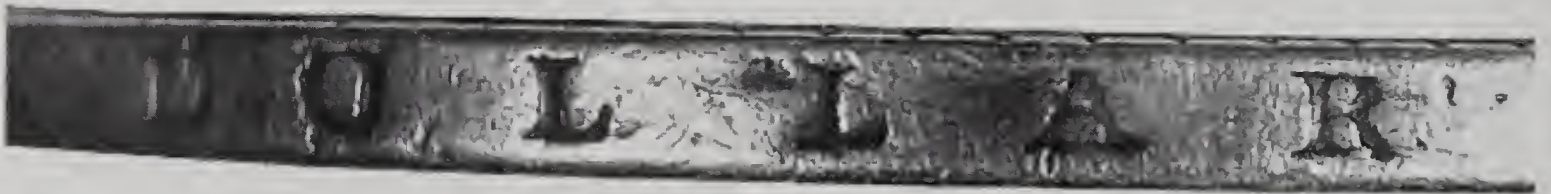
2) Was this 1828 bust half used for experimentation in 1831 (or 1830)? That is not likely. Dies for 1828 O 115, including the edge dies, were last used to mint coins in 1828, and this 1828 half had the reeds applied before the edge lettering. Also, there would be no reason, in 1831, to go back and match 1828 obverse, reverse, and edge dies to strike experimental coins when new 1831 dies were available.

3) Could the edge reeds have been produced using equipment for minting quarter dollars? Quarter dollars produced in 1828 have edge reeds which were applied prior to the striking of the coin in an open collar. *Editor's Note: It is generally accepted that the reeded edge on early U.S. coins was applied during striking using a collar.* Perhaps the planchet for this half dollar accidentally had quarter dollar reeding applied before properly being processed on the Castaing machine? Would this account for the fact that the reeding on the half dollar is incomplete and uneven? (Those of you with more knowledge than me about early minting techniques might tell us if this is possible?)

4) Could the 1828 half dollar be struck over a foreign coin that had edge reeds? This is not likely since there is no evidence of a host coin and because the reeding on the 1828 half dollar is unevenly applied. Based on the evidence, it seems reasonably clear that this coin was produced in 1828. Was the application of the reeds accidental or experimental? If experimental, why was there a 3-year gap between this experiment and production of the new edges used to produce halves in 1831? And exactly how were the reeds applied to this coin? Anyone?



1828 O115 "Reeded" & Normal Edge



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Leaman, Ivan and Donald Gunnet. 1987. Early Half Dollar Edges and Dies Sequences. In: *America's Silver Coinage, 1794-1891, Coinage of the Americas Conference Proceedings* (1986), No. 3, pp 41-92.



R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

Stephen J. Herrman

Presented here is the fifth installment of the R4 to R8 Capped Bust half dollar census to be published in the **John Reich Journal**. Since the last census survey appeared in the June 2007 issue, Volume 18 / Issue 2, several major collections have been dispersed, and a number of new collections are presently in the formation stage.

The rarity rating estimates used are based on the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC) study published in the June 2005 **John Reich Journal**. 105 die marriages are currently estimated to be R4 or higher. The rarity rating estimates for two varieties have been adjusted downwards due to the appearance of additional specimens. Specifically, 1823 O.113 was lowered to R7- (10-11 known) and 1825 O.118 was lowered to R7+ (4 known).

Below is a reference table listing the rarity rating levels used in this survey and the corresponding estimated number of coins known for each level.

| <u>Rating</u> | <u>Est Nbr</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Est Nbr</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Est Nbr</u> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| R8 | 1-3 | R6- | 25-30 | R4- | 161-200 |
| R7+ | 4-6 | R5+ | 31-46 | R3 | 201-500 |
| R7 | 7-9 | R5 | 47-63 | R2 | 501-1000 |
| R7- | 10-12 | R5- | 64-80 | R1 | over 1000 |
| R6+ | 13-18 | R4+ | 81-120 | | |
| R6 | 19-24 | R4 | 121-160 | | |

The **R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections** table contains the census of the top 15 collections submitted. With the exception of two collections which were submitted anonymously, each collection is identified by the submitter’s JRCS membership number.

The **R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census By Grade** table contains the census by grade of the top coins for each variety, as graded by the submitters.

44 collectors submitted their census listings for inclusion in this survey—a total of 2,557 coins. Thank you to everyone who participated.

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 323 | 1006 | 692 | 474 | 1087 | A | 739 | 418 | 978 | 151 | 019 | 061 | 049 | 025 | A | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1807 | 111 | 4+ | 35 | 20 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 25 | 45 | 50 | 35 | 20 | 12 | 12 | 20 | 25 | 15 | 34 | 24 | 53 |
| 1808 | 110 | 4+ | 50 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 40 | 15 | 45 | 55 | 53 | 30 | 20 | 35 | 25 | 8 | 15 | 32 | 29 | 55 |
| 1809 | 101 | 5 | 35 | 30 | 45 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 12 | 50 | 10 | 40 | 30 | 8 | 10 | 40 | 6 | 23 | 23 | 50 |
| 1809 | 104 | 5- | 48 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 53 | 20 | 25 | 53 | 25 | 45 | 40 | 8 | 20 | 45 | 6 | 23 | 31 | 55 |
| 1809 | 108 | 4 | 45 | 40 | 43 | 45 | 45 | 25 | 45 | 40 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 45 |
| 1809 | 110 | 4+ | 40 | 40 | 43 | 40 | 45 | 45 | 12 | 35 | 35 | 12 | 15 | 45 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 30 | 26 | 63 |
| 1809 | 112 | 5- | 48 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 53 | 20 | 45 | 25 | 30 | 15 | 12 | 20 | 25 | 29 | 58 |
| 1809 | 113 | 5 | 50 | 40 | 25 | 35 | 8 | 25 | 8 | 50 | 12 | 40 | 20 | 30 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 25 | 50 |
| 1809 | 114 | 5 | 50 | 25 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 6 | 20 | 28 | 25 | 50 |
| 1811 | 102 | 4 | 55 | 40 | 43 | 53 | 30 | 40 | 55 | 58 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 30 | 26 | 40 | 62 |
| 1811 | 107 | 4 | 61 | 53 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 25 | 55 | 20 | 40 | 25 | 35 | 25 | 28 | 40 | 61 |
| 1811 | 112 | 4- | 50 | 63 | 53 | 61 | 58 | 40 | 35 | 53 | 45 | 62 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 37 | 38 | 63 |
| 1811 | 113 | 5 | 58 | 20 | 43 | 40 | 35 | 15 | 25 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 12 | 45 | 20 | 26 | 30 | 58 |
| 1812 | 101 | 5- | 30 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 12 | 15 | | 25 | | 40 | | 15 | 27 | 50 |
| 1813 | 102 | 4 | 60 | 55 | 40 | 53 | 50 | 35 | 35 | 58 | 35 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 35 | 38 | 60 |
| 1813 | 104 | 4 | 50 | 40 | 35 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 35 | 30 | 20 | 53 | 45 | 27 | 39 | 61 |
| 1814 | 106 | 4+ | 50 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 35 | 30 | 12 | 45 | 35 | 35 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 45 | 12 | 33 | 35 | 62 |
| 1817 | 102 | 7 | | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 20 | 20 |
| 1817 | 104 | 6 | 50 | 40 | 43 | 40 | 12 | | | 30 | | | | | | | | 6 | 36 | 50 |
| 1817 | 105 | 4- | 45 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 50 | 45 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 35 | 30 | 35 | 37 | 36 | 58 |
| 1817 | 108 | 4 | 50 | 30 | 50 | 45 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 58 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 38 | 58 |
| 1818 | 110 | 4 | 45 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 25 | 58 | 35 | 55 | 35 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 27 | 38 | 63 |
| 1818 | 115 | 4+ | 53 | 40 | 43 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 35 | 40 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 32 | 33 | 55 |
| 1819 | 103 | 4 | 58 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 30 | 45 | 58 | 50 | 55 | 20 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 36 | 41 | 58 |
| 1819 | 106 | 4 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 55 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 58 | 55 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 24 | 40 | 58 |
| 1820 | 104 | 4+ | 45 | 50 | 30 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 25 | 55 | 40 | 55 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 45 | | 30 | 40 | 58 |
| 1820 | 107 | 5 | 55 | 45 | 48 | 45 | 30 | 15 | 25 | 61 | 40 | 53 | 30 | 30 | 35 | | 12 | 22 | 34 | 61 |
| 1822 | 102 | 4+ | 50 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 45 | 25 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 26 | 38 | 55 |
| 1822 | 103 | 5- | 50 | 40 | 48 | 62 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 58 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 58 | 20 | 31 | 35 | 62 |
| 1822 | 112 | 4 | 50 | 40 | 55 | 62 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 20 | 24 | 40 | 62 |
| 1823 | 102 | 4 | 58 | 30 | 43 | 58 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 62 | 40 | 20 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 27 | 39 | 62 |
| 1823 | 109 | 5+ | 64 | 25 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 25 | 55 | | 20 | | 8 | 21 | 30 | 64 |
| 1823 | 113 | 7- | 30 | | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 28 | 30 |
| 1824 | 102 | 5+ | 58 | 15 | 30 | 45 | 6 | 20 | 25 | 53 | 12 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 30 | | | 21 | 29 | 58 |
| 1824 | 112 | 4 | 55 | 40 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 30 | 50 | 53 | 50 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 45 | 24 | 44 | 58 |
| 1824 | 114 | 5- | 30 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 62 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 25 | 12 | 30 | 24 | 28 | 62 |
| 1825 | 103 | 4- | 45 | 40 | 50 | 53 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 61 | 30 | 45 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 53 | 25 | 43 | 61 |
| 1825 | 104 | 4+ | 61 | 12 | 50 | 63 | 53 | 53 | 20 | 55 | 20 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 40 | 53 | 12 | 26 | 34 | 63 |

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 323 | 1006 | 692 | 474 | 1087 | A | 739 | 418 | 978 | 151 | 019 | 061 | 049 | 025 | A | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1825 | 109 | 5 | 40 | 64 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 25 | 20 | 62 | 15 | 25 | 25 | 45 | 20 | 35 | 12 | 26 | 33 | 64 |
| 1825 | 117 | 4 | 50 | 55 | 48 | 50 | 58 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 35 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 28 | 44 | 63 |
| 1825 | 118 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1826 | 103 | 5- | 40 | 45 | 58 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 20 | 45 | 35 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 27 | 35 | 58 |
| 1826 | 114 | 4+ | 62 | 63 | 40 | 61 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 53 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 25 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 41 | 63 |
| 1826 | 115 | 5- | 55 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 63 | 35 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 45 | 20 | 12 | 28 | 37 | 63 |
| 1826 | 119 | 4- | 61 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 15 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 63 | 30 | 25 | 41 | 63 |
| 1826 | 120 | 4- | 45 | 55 | 43 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 55 | 40 | 58 | 30 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 28 | 45 | 58 |
| 1827 | 103 | 4 | 50 | 35 | 43 | 53 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 58 | 20 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 35 | 50 | 25 | 29 | 43 | 63 |
| 1827 | 108 | 4- | 62 | 55 | 45 | 58 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 35 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 45 | 40 | 27 | 44 | 63 |
| 1827 | 109 | 4- | 53 | 45 | 55 | 62 | 58 | 50 | 50 | 53 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 25 | 29 | 43 | 63 |
| 1827 | 110 | 4- | 62 | 53 | 48 | 50 | 53 | 40 | 35 | 53 | 40 | 35 | 20 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 111 | 4 | 63 | 45 | 43 | 53 | 45 | 40 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 40 | 58 | 35 | 27 | 46 | 63 |
| 1827 | 113 | 4- | 58 | 50 | 45 | 48 | 55 | 40 | 35 | 50 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 45 | 40 | 50 | 45 | 32 | 42 | 61 |
| 1827 | 116 | 4+ | 58 | 53 | 50 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 12 | 30 | 34 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 122 | 5 | 58 | 45 | 30 | 40 | 45 | 30 | 8 | 55 | 10 | 35 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 35 | 6 | 20 | 33 | 64 |
| 1827 | 123 | 5- | 55 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 58 | 25 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 25 | 58 | 45 | 30 | 39 | 62 |
| 1827 | 124 | 5+ | 45 | 45 | 35 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 30 | 62 | 12 | 35 | 20 | 30 | 8 | 30 | 10 | 21 | 32 | 62 |
| 1827 | 127 | 5 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 25 | 30 | 15 | 58 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 25 | 12 | 19 | 31 | 58 |
| 1827 | 128 | 4- | 55 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 58 | 25 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 26 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 129 | 4- | 55 | 45 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 53 | 50 | 62 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 133 | 4 | 50 | 53 | 50 | 55 | 53 | 40 | 50 | 55 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 27 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 134 | 4 | 55 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 62 | 25 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 45 | 35 | 50 | 26 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 136 | 4 | 55 | 40 | 55 | 53 | 55 | 40 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 35 | 15 | 50 | 30 | 53 | 20 | 31 | 46 | 58 |
| 1827 | 137 | 6 | 55 | 40 | 43 | 35 | 10 | 12 | 8 | | | | | | | | 4 | 10 | 24 | 55 |
| 1827 | 138 | 4 | 58 | 25 | 45 | 53 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 58 | 25 | 58 | 45 | 30 | 30 | 35 | 58 | 28 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 139 | 4- | 62 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 58 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 25 | 53 | 25 | 30 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 140 | 4+ | 63 | 45 | 58 | 55 | 58 | 35 | 45 | 53 | 45 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 45 | 31 | 38 | 63 |
| 1827 | 144 | 5+ | 45 | 45 | 25 | 40 | 45 | 25 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 12 | 35 | 20 | 20 | 32 | 58 |
| 1827 | 145 | 5 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 58 | 15 | 35 | 25 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 8 | 25 | 35 | 58 |
| 1827 | 147 | 4 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 62 | 58 | 35 | 45 | 50 | 20 | 45 | 35 | 45 | 40 | 30 | 15 | 29 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 148 | 6+ | 10 | 45 | 35 | 40 | | 10 | 45 | | | | | | | | | 6 | 31 | 45 |
| 1827 | 149 | 8 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 25 | 25 |
| 1828 | 105 | 5 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 48 | 50 | 30 | 35 | 58 | 45 | 30 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 23 | 40 | 58 |
| 1828 | 106 | 4+ | 58 | 53 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 25 | 24 | 42 | 58 |
| 1828 | 111 | 4 | 55 | 30 | 43 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 55 | 50 | 20 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 40 | 50 | 20 | 24 | 39 | 55 |
| 1828 | 123 | 5+ | 40 | 53 | 40 | 35 | 45 | 15 | 50 | 58 | 30 | | 40 | 45 | 10 | 20 | 3 | 18 | 37 | 64 |
| 1829 | 106 | 5- | 58 | 64 | 45 | 53 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 60 | 12 | 40 | 40 | 25 | 30 | 25 | 45 | 25 | 38 | 64 |

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 323 | 1006 | 692 | 474 | 1087 | A | 739 | 418 | 978 | 151 | 019 | 061 | 049 | 025 | A | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------------|-----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1829 | 109 | 4+ | 50 | 45 | 50 | 62 | 53 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 50 | 25 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 8 | 50 | 26 | 37 | 62 |
| 1829 | 118 | 4+ | 50 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 45 | 35 | 30 | 61 | 30 | 35 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 26 | 39 | 61 |
| 1829 | 120 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1830 | 105 | 4 | 50 | 55 | 35 | 55 | 58 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 15 | 15 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 33 | 39 | 58 |
| 1830 | 112 | 4+ | 55 | 45 | 40 | 53 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 55 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 35 | 15 | 20 | 55 | 29 | 40 | 55 |
| 1830 | 114 | 5 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 35 | 20 | 8 | 58 | 10 | 35 | 35 | | 15 | 35 | | 20 | 35 | 58 |
| 1831 | 113 | 4 | 55 | 45 | 43 | 45 | 53 | 40 | 40 | 55 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 53 | 40 | 30 | 45 | 61 |
| 1831 | 115 | 4 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 55 | 55 | 35 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 40 | 55 | 29 | 42 | 58 |
| 1831 | 117 | 4 | 45 | 40 | 58 | 40 | 55 | 45 | 30 | 45 | 45 | 25 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 28 | 41 | 62 |
| 1831 | 120 | 6 | 30 | 50 | 18 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 6 | 20 | | | | | | | | 12 | 25 | 50 |
| 1832 | 109 | 4 | 63 | 62 | 40 | 61 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 58 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 32 | 42 | 63 |
| 1832 | 114 | 4+ | 58 | 30 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 55 | 45 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 40 | 45 | 35 | 26 | 45 | 60 |
| 1832 | 117 | 4+ | 60 | 53 | 48 | 48 | 45 | 50 | 35 | 55 | 53 | 45 | 40 | 50 | 20 | 40 | 45 | 31 | 41 | 60 |
| 1832 | 119 | 4- | 50 | 53 | 45 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 58 | 30 | 55 | 50 | 40 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 25 | 50 | 62 |
| 1832 | 123 | 7+ | | 55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 55 | 55 |
| 1833 | 111 | 4+ | 50 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 25 | 24 | 40 | 58 |
| 1833 | 115 | 5+ | 25 | 20 | 43 | 35 | 40 | 30 | 12 | 63 | 15 | 35 | 35 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 15 | 25 | 25 | 63 |
| 1833 | 116 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1834 | 118 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 48 | 55 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 53 | 45 | 45 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 58 | 45 | 31 | 45 | 58 |
| 1834 | 119 | 4 | 53 | 45 | 45 | 58 | 50 | 58 | 40 | 55 | 45 | 45 | 25 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 40 | 32 | 41 | 60 |
| 1834 | 120 | 4 | 50 | 50 | 58 | 55 | 50 | 53 | 55 | 55 | 30 | 30 | 58 | 30 | 45 | 40 | 53 | 29 | 45 | 58 |
| 1834 | 122 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1835 | 111 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1836 | 103 | 4- | 45 | 50 | 43 | 55 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 30 | 53 | 30 | 45 | 50 | 35 | 55 | 30 | 29 | 39 | 63 |
| 1836 | 105 | 4- | 50 | 45 | 48 | 50 | 45 | 50 | 50 | 61 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 55 | 31 | 41 | 61 |
| 1836 | 107 | 4 | 55 | 30 | 40 | 62 | 25 | 50 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 35 | 32 | 37 | 62 |
| 1836 | 120 | 4- | 55 | 53 | 43 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 34 | 44 | 62 |
| 1836 | 121 | 5+ | 55 | 40 | 48 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 40 | | | | 20 | 33 | 55 |
| 1836 | 123 | 4 | 45 | 50 | 45 | 55 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 53 | 40 | 33 | 42 | 58 |
| TOTAL VARS | | | 98 | 98 | 97 | 98 | 95 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 32 | 91 | 91 | 90 | 90 | 98 | 98 | 2557 | 37.9 | |
| AVG GRADE | | | 50.0 | 43.1 | 42.8 | 47.5 | 43.9 | 37.1 | 36.0 | 51.5 | 33.3 | 37.0 | 31.8 | 33.9 | 29.8 | 35.1 | 28.6 | | | |

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1807 | 111 | 4+ | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 34 | 24 | 53 |
| 1808 | 110 | 4+ | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 32 | 29 | 55 |
| 1809 | 101 | 5 | 50 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | 23 | 23 | 50 |
| 1809 | 104 | 5- | 55 | 53 | 53 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 31 | 55 |
| 1809 | 108 | 4 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 45 |
| 1809 | 110 | 4+ | 63 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 26 | 63 |
| 1809 | 112 | 5- | 58 | 53 | 48 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 29 | 58 |
| 1809 | 113 | 5 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 20 | 25 | 50 |
| 1809 | 114 | 5 | 50 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 25 | 50 |
| 1811 | 102 | 4 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 40 | 62 |
| 1811 | 107 | 4 | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 28 | 40 | 61 |
| 1811 | 112 | 4- | 63 | 62 | 61 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 37 | 38 | 63 |
| 1811 | 113 | 5 | 58 | 58 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 30 | 58 |
| 1812 | 101 | 5- | 50 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 27 | 50 |
| 1813 | 102 | 4 | 60 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 38 | 60 |
| 1813 | 104 | 4 | 61 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 27 | 39 | 61 |
| 1814 | 106 | 4+ | 62 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 35 | 62 |
| 1817 | 102 | 7 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 20 | 20 |
| 1817 | 104 | 6 | 50 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 36 | 50 |
| 1817 | 105 | 4- | 58 | 58 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 58 |
| 1817 | 108 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 38 | 58 |
| 1818 | 110 | 4 | 63 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 27 | 38 | 63 |
| 1818 | 115 | 4+ | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 32 | 33 | 55 |
| 1819 | 103 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 36 | 41 | 58 |
| 1819 | 106 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 24 | 40 | 58 |
| 1820 | 104 | 4+ | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 40 | 58 |
| 1820 | 107 | 5 | 61 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 22 | 34 | 61 |
| 1822 | 102 | 4+ | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 38 | 55 |
| 1822 | 103 | 5- | 62 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 31 | 35 | 62 |
| 1822 | 112 | 4 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 24 | 40 | 62 |
| 1823 | 102 | 4 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 27 | 39 | 62 |
| 1823 | 109 | 5+ | 64 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 21 | 30 | 64 |
| 1823 | 113 | 7- | 30 | 28 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 28 | 30 |
| 1824 | 102 | 5+ | 58 | 58 | 53 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 29 | 58 |
| 1824 | 112 | 4 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 24 | 44 | 58 |
| 1824 | 114 | 5- | 62 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 62 |
| 1825 | 103 | 4- | 61 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 25 | 43 | 61 |
| 1825 | 104 | 4+ | 63 | 61 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 34 | 63 |

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1825 | 109 | 5 | 64 | 62 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 33 | 64 |
| 1825 | 117 | 4 | 63 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 40 | 28 | 44 | 63 |
| 1825 | 118 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1826 | 103 | 5- | 58 | 58 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 27 | 35 | 58 |
| 1826 | 114 | 4+ | 63 | 62 | 61 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 35 | 41 | 63 |
| 1826 | 115 | 5- | 63 | 61 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 28 | 37 | 63 |
| 1826 | 119 | 4- | 63 | 61 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 42 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 25 | 41 | 63 |
| 1826 | 120 | 4- | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 28 | 45 | 58 |
| 1827 | 103 | 4 | 63 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 29 | 43 | 63 |
| 1827 | 108 | 4- | 63 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 27 | 44 | 63 |
| 1827 | 109 | 4- | 63 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 29 | 43 | 63 |
| 1827 | 110 | 4- | 62 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 111 | 4 | 63 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 27 | 46 | 63 |
| 1827 | 113 | 4- | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 32 | 42 | 61 |
| 1827 | 116 | 4+ | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 34 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 122 | 5 | 64 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 33 | 64 |
| 1827 | 123 | 5- | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 39 | 62 |
| 1827 | 124 | 5+ | 62 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 21 | 32 | 62 |
| 1827 | 127 | 5 | 58 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 19 | 31 | 58 |
| 1827 | 128 | 4- | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 129 | 4- | 62 | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 25 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 133 | 4 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 27 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 134 | 4 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 26 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 136 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 31 | 46 | 58 |
| 1827 | 137 | 6 | 55 | 43 | 40 | 35 | 25 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 4 | | | | | | 10 | 24 | 55 |
| 1827 | 138 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 28 | 41 | 58 |
| 1827 | 138 | 4- | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 42 | 62 |
| 1827 | 140 | 4+ | 63 | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 31 | 38 | 63 |
| 1827 | 144 | 5+ | 58 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 32 | 58 |
| 1827 | 145 | 5 | 58 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 35 | 58 |
| 1827 | 147 | 4 | 62 | 61 | 61 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 29 | 43 | 62 |
| 1827 | 148 | 6+ | 45 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 10 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 31 | 45 |
| 1827 | 149 | 8 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 25 | 25 |
| 1828 | 105 | 5 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 23 | 40 | 58 |
| 1828 | 106 | 4+ | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 24 | 42 | 58 |
| 1828 | 111 | 4 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 24 | 39 | 55 |
| 1828 | 123 | 5+ | 64 | 58 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 37 | 64 |
| 1829 | 106 | 5- | 64 | 60 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 25 | 38 | 64 |

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census by Grade

| YEAR | VAR | R. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | TOT | AVG | MAX |
|------------|-----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1829 | 109 | 4+ | 62 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 37 | 62 |
| 1829 | 118 | 4+ | 61 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 26 | 39 | 61 |
| 1829 | 120 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1830 | 105 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 33 | 39 | 58 |
| 1830 | 112 | 4+ | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 29 | 40 | 55 |
| 1830 | 114 | 5 | 58 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 20 | 35 | 58 |
| 1831 | 113 | 4 | 61 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 30 | 45 | 61 |
| 1831 | 115 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 29 | 42 | 58 |
| 1831 | 117 | 4 | 62 | 62 | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 28 | 41 | 62 |
| 1831 | 120 | 6 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 10 | 6 | | | | 12 | 25 | 50 |
| 1832 | 109 | 4 | 63 | 62 | 61 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 32 | 42 | 63 |
| 1832 | 114 | 4+ | 60 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 26 | 45 | 60 |
| 1832 | 117 | 4+ | 60 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 31 | 41 | 60 |
| 1832 | 119 | 4- | 62 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 50 | 62 |
| 1832 | 123 | 7+ | 55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 55 | 55 |
| 1833 | 111 | 4+ | 58 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 24 | 40 | 58 |
| 1833 | 115 | 5+ | 63 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 63 |
| 1833 | 116 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1834 | 118 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 31 | 45 | 58 |
| 1834 | 119 | 4 | 60 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 32 | 41 | 60 |
| 1834 | 120 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 29 | 45 | 58 |
| 1834 | 122 | 7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1835 | 111 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1836 | 103 | 4- | 63 | 61 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 29 | 39 | 63 |
| 1836 | 105 | 4- | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 31 | 41 | 61 |
| 1836 | 107 | 4 | 62 | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 32 | 37 | 62 |
| 1836 | 120 | 4- | 62 | 61 | 61 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 34 | 44 | 62 |
| 1836 | 121 | 5+ | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 33 | 55 |
| 1836 | 123 | 4 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 33 | 42 | 58 |
| TOTAL VARS | | | 100 | 97 | 97 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 93 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 2557 | 37.9 | |
| AVG GRADE | | | 58.1 | 55.5 | 53.2 | 51.6 | 49.7 | 47.9 | 47.0 | 45.5 | 44.3 | 43.0 | 42.0 | 40.5 | 39.5 | 38.1 | 36.9 | | | |



The Sale of the Don Frederick Collection of Capped Bust Half Dollars

Stephen J. Herrman

Heritage Auction Galleries' sale of Don Frederick's collection of Capped Bust half dollars took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in association with the Central States Numismatic Society annual convention on Friday, April 31, 2010, starting at 1:00 PM Central Time.

Don Frederick was a long-time member of the Bust Half Nut Club, and assembled most of his collection between the late 1960s and the late 1970s. This was long before the days of third-party grading services, and cleaning coins to highlight the detail was not frowned upon as it is today. Nearly the entire collection was submitted to PCGS for grading and authentication. Not surprisingly, many of the coins ended up in "Genuine" holders (not graded) due to various surface problems. Regardless, there were a good number of quality Bust halves in the collection.

Attendance on the auction floor seemed rather sparse. However, once the auction started, it quickly became apparent that those attending in person as well as those participating via the internet were very serious. Bidding on the better quality lots was spirited, with much back and forth on the floor and via the internet. Amazingly, every lot sold, and there were few bargains. Many lots went for record prices for the variety and grade.

Following are some highlights from the auction:

- Lot 2933 1812 O.101 R5- 1812/1, Large 8, PCGS AU53 Realized \$43,125
- Lot 3028 1820 O.107 R5 Ex Getty('77) #795, PL, PCGS AU58 Realized \$29,900
- Lot 3174 1827 O.148 R6+ Dot Bk, Dbl Strk/Obv Brck, PCGS VF35 Realized \$21,275
- Lot 3162 1827 O.137 R6 Large Letters Rev, PCGS XF40 Realized \$11,500
- Lot 2875 1807 O.111a R5 50/20, PCGS XF40 Realized \$6,325
- Lot 2899 1809 O.109 R3 IIII Edge, Prooflike, PCGS AU53 Realized \$6,325
- Lot 2878 1807 O.114 R3 Large Stars, PCGS XF45 Realized \$4,600
- Lot 3002 1818 O.115 R5 PCGS AU53 Realized \$4,600
- Lot 3165 1827 O.140a R5 PCGS AU58 Realized \$4,313
- Lot 2951 1813 O.104 R4 PCGS AU58 Realized \$4,025
- Lot 3003 1818 O.115a R4+ PCGS AU50 Realized \$4,025
- Lot 3198 1828 O.123a R5+ PCGS AU50 Realized \$3,738



Emission Sequence of 1806 Half Dollars

Bradley Higgins

As has been previously discussed, the emission sequence of early U.S. lettered edge coins can be determined by obverse and reverse die linkage and die state analysis, and by comparing the edge devices. Since the edge devices were imparted to the coins by hubbed dies, it is logical to assume that these dies will wear, that there will be similar abnormalities such as cracks and chips, and that this wear can be tracked as on the obverse and reverse of the coin. With this in mind, the first step is to set up a chart to diagram die linkage. The first column shows shared obverses and the third shows shared reverses.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|
| 1 | O.101 | | 4 | O.111 | b | 6 | O.121 | |
| 1 | O.102 | a | 4 | O.112 | c | 6 | O.122 | |
| 1 | O.103 | | | O.113 | c | 7 | O.123 | |
| | O.104 | | 5 | O.114 | | 7 | O.124 | |
| | O.105 | a | 5 | O.115 | | 3 | O.125 | |
| 2 | O.106 | a | 5 | O.116 | | 6 | O.126 | |
| 2 | O.107 | | 5 | O.117 | | | O.127 | b |
| 2 | O.108 | | 6 | O.118 | | 7 | O.128 | |
| 3 | O.109 | | 6 | O.119 | | | O.129 | |
| | O.110 | b | 6 | O.120 | | 7 | O.130 | |

Cursory examination shows that all die marriages are linked by one or both dies, except O.104, which was coined using a previously used 1805 die, overdated, and paired with another carryover from 1805, reverse B, now in its 5th and final use. This die marriage will have to be placed based on edge study. The first linked set of obverses, O.101-103, were used in this order: O.102, then 101, and then 103. The second group of linked obverses were used in opposite order, 108, 107, and 106. Next is 125 and 109, &111 then 112&, the next set is in order. The 6th set order is 118, 122, 126, 119, 120, 121. The sequence of the final set of linked obverses is 124, 123, and 130, with 130 as the final use of that obverse as it sports a light crack from star 6 to L.

The placement of the mysterious O.128 and 129 remains a problem. These die marriages share a reverse with the very common O.116 and both appear to be of an early die state, yet the O.128 edge suggests that it belongs after O.124 and 123. For now, the proper placement of these two is an informed guess.

When the order of shared reverse dies is determined, the break with Overton numbers becomes more profound. The order of the first shared reverse is in reverse order, 106, 105, and 102. This clearly demonstrates that the overdates could not have come first. For the round top 6s, the order based on die linkage and die state has to be 108, 107, 106, 105, 102, 101, 103, with O.104 not yet placed. The order for the pointed six die marriages is rather straightforward until the last three marriages are placed. O.127, the first use of that reverse, is moved ahead of O.110. A tentative order is now 125, 109, 127, 110 thru 116, 118, 122, 126, 119, 120, 121, 117, 124, 123, 128 thru 130. Die linkage and die state analysis alone leaves us with the following:

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| O.108 | O.127 | O.126 |
| O.107 | O.110 | O.119 |
| O.106 | O.111 | O.120 |
| O.105 | O.112 | O.121 |
| O.102 | O.113 | O.117 |
| O.101 | O.114 | O.124 |
| O.103 | O.115 | O.123 |
| O.104 | O.116 | O.128 |
| O.125 | O.118 | O.129 |
| O.109 | O.122 | O.130 |

Edge analysis is necessary to finish the process. Few students of the series are aware that Ivan Leaman and Don Gunnet worked on this back in the day when they unraveled the emission sequence of the capped bust half dollars, but their work has long been unavailable and presumed lost. Recently the 1806 sequence was made available and the following is largely the work of these men combined with a bit of my own. Edge comparison confirms that O.108 was the first marriage struck dated 1806, followed by O.107, O.104, O.106, O.105, O.102, O.101, and O.103. The entire sequence is as follows with the placement of O.128-130 still speculative.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| O.108 | O.111 | O.128 |
| O.107 | O.112 | O.129 |
| O.104 | O.113 | O.130 |
| O.106 | O.125 | O.118 |
| O.105 | O.109 | O.122 |
| O.102 | O.114 | O.126 |
| O.101 | O.115 | O.119 |
| O.103 | O.116 | O.120 |
| O.127 | O.124 | O.121 |
| O.110 | O.123 | O.117 |

With this information now available, the entire emission sequence of the Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle half dollar series is known, with the order from 1801-1803 being properly presented in Overton. This is not the final word on the subject as future research may change the order slightly if or when 1805 O.114, 1806 O.128-130, and 1807 O.115 are made available for in depth inspection along with certain other coins, especially their edges.

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1801 O.101 | 1806 O.108 | 1806 O.122 |
| 1801 O.102 | 1806 O.107 | 1806 O.126 |
| | 1806 O.104 | 1806 O.119 |
| 1802 O.101 | 1806 O.106 | 1806 O.120 |
| | 1806 O.105 | 1806 O.121 |
| 1803 O.101 | 1806 O.102 | 1806 O.117 |
| 1803 O.102 | 1806 O.101 | |
| 1803 O.103 | 1806 O.103 | 1807 O.108 |
| 1803 O.104 | 1806 O.127 | 1807 O.109 |
| | 1806 O.110 | 1807 O.110 |
| 1805 O.113 | 1806 O.111 | 1807 O.105 |
| 1805 O.112 | 1806 O.112 | 1807 O.107 |
| 1805 O.111 | 1806 O.113 | 1807 O.106 |
| 1805 O.101 | 1806 O.125 | 1807 O.101 |
| 1805 O.102 | 1806 O.109 | 1807 O.102 |
| 1805 O.110 | 1806 O.114 | 1807 O.104 |
| 1805 O.107 | 1806 O.115 | 1807 O.115 |
| 1805 O.114* | 1806 O.116 | 1807 O.103 |
| 1805 O.108 | 1806 O.124 | |
| 1805 O.104 | 1806 O.123 | |
| 1805 O.103 | 1806 O.128* | |
| 1805 O.105 | 1806 O.129* | |
| 1805 O.106 | 1806 O.130* | |
| 1805 O.109 | 1806 O.118 | |

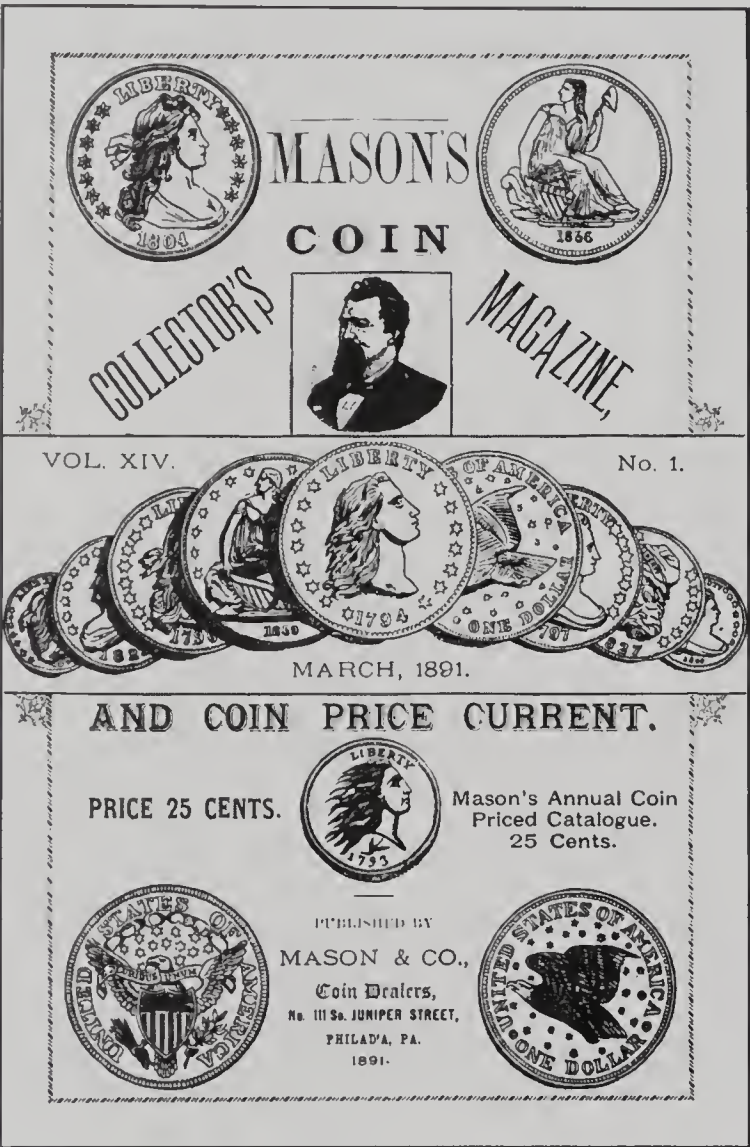
*placement speculative



Short Stories from the Late 1800s

W. David Perkins, NLG

The following stories and advertisements are taken from various issues of Mason's Magazines, E. Mason & Co., Philadelphia, PA from 1867 to 1891. Headings in large bold type are mine. I hope you enjoy "going back over one hundred years in time" as I do.



(Right) Here is an amazing advertisement from the August 1884 issue of Mason's magazine. Note there are 1794 and 1804 Dollars in Stock, along with half dollars of 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797 and 1815 and quarter dollars of 1796, 1804 and 1827. All of these rare dates were offered in two different grades! And all were offered at low prices....

(Left) Cover of the March 1891 Issue of Mason's Coin Collector's Magazine, with engraved photos of early U.S. silver coinage. Mason was located in Philadelphia, PA. As you will note in this article, the rarities you see pictured were often "in stock!"

COINS

On Hand and for Sale

BY
MASON & CO.,
235 Washington Street,
BOSTON, MASS.

| DOLLARS. | | TRADE DOLLARS. | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | GOOD TO FINE. | | GOOD TO FINE. |
| 1794, | \$15 00 \$35 00 | 1879, | \$1 20 \$1 40 |
| 1795, | 1 25 1 75 | 1880, | 1 20 1 40 |
| 1796, | 1 35 2 00 | 1881, | 1 25 1 50 |
| 1797, | 1 35 2 00 | 1882, | 1 25 1 40 |
| 1798, | 1 10 1 35 | | |
| 1798, small eagle, | 1 50 3 50 | | |
| 1799, | 1 05 1 35 | | |
| 1799, five star facing, | 1 50 2 50 | | |
| 1800, | 1 10 1 50 | | |
| 1801, | 1 35 2 25 | | |
| 1802, | 1 25 2 00 | | |
| 1803, | 1 25 2 00 | | |

| HALF DOLLARS. | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| | GOOD TO FINE. |
| 1794, | \$2 00 \$6 00 |
| 1795, | 60 85 |
| 1796, | 15 00 35 00 |
| 1797, | 10 00 30 00 |
| 1801, | 1 25 3 00 |
| 1802, | 1 25 3 25 |
| 1803, | 75 1 25 |
| 1805, | 60 1 00 |
| 1815, | 2 00 5 00 |
| 1836, milled edge, | 2 00 3 50 |
| 1851, | 60 1 00 |
| 1852, | 2 00 3 50 |
| 1879, '80, '81, | 55 75 |

| QUARTER DOLLARS. | |
|------------------|---------------|
| | GOOD TO FINE. |
| 1796, | \$1 25 \$3 50 |
| 1804, | 1 00 3 00 |
| 1805 and 06, | 30 50 |
| 1815, | 30 75 |
| 1823, | 10 00 40 00 |
| 1827, | 20 00 50 00 |
| 1853, no arrows, | 1 50 4 00 |
| 1879, '80, '81, | 30 40 |

| 20 CENT PIECES. | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| | GOOD TO FINE. |
| 1876, | \$0 25 \$0 40 |
| 1877, | 2 00 3 00 |
| 1878, | 1 75 2 50 |

| SUPPLEMENT OF MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| COINS FOR SALE BY MASON & CO., 32 N. THIRTEENTH ST., PHILAD'A. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U. S. SILVER DOLLARS. | | | | | | U. S. CENTS. | | | | | |
| DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD |
| 1794 | \$75.00 | \$60.00 | 1845 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1793 | \$8.00 | \$3.50 | 1805 | \$1.60 | 25 |
| 1795 | 2.80 | 1.75 | 1846 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1794 | 1.80 | 25 | 1806 | 1.75 | 25 |
| 1796 | 2.75 | 2.00 | 1847 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1795 | 1.00 | 25 | 1807 | 1.00 | 20 |
| 1797 | 2.75 | 2.00 | 1848 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1796 | 1.00 | 30 | 1808 | 1.75 | 25 |
| 1798 | 1.60 | 1.25 | 1849 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1797 | 75 | 20 | 1809 | 4.25 | 1.80 |
| 1799 | 1.60 | 1.25 | 1850 | 1.75 | 1.50 | 1798 | 50 | 20 | 1810 | 1.20 | 15 |
| 1800 | 1.75 | 1.50 | 1851 | 42.00 | 31.75 | 1799 | 25.00 | 13.50 | 1811 | 4.00 | 50 |
| 1801 | 2.50 | 1.75 | 1852 | 42.50 | 32.00 | 1800 | 50 | 25 | 1812 | 45 | 10 |
| 1802-3 | 2.60 | 1.80 | 1853 | 2.50 | 1.50 | 1801 | 75 | 15 | 1813 | 75 | 25 |
| 1840 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1854 | 12.50 | 8.00 | 1802 | 70 | 10 | 1814 | 25 | 05 |
| 1841 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1855 | 8.00 | 4.25 | 1803 | 25 | 5 | 1857 | 25 | 15 |
| 1842 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1856 | 3.80 | 2.35 | 1804 | 10.00 | 5.00 | | | |
| 1843 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1857 | 4.25 | 2.75 | | | | | | |
| 1844 | 1.20 | 1.10 | 1858 | 41.35 | 31.30 | | | | | | |
| 1859 to 1869, uncirculated | | | | | \$2.00 | U. S. HALF-CENTS. | | | | | |
| 1870 to 1873 | | | | | 1.50 | DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD |
| 1872 to 1881 | | | | | 1.25 | 1793 | \$5.00 | \$1.75 | 1835 | \$00 5 | \$00 3 |
| U. S. HALF-DOLLARS. | | | | | | 1794 | 1.75 | 80 | 1836 | | |
| DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | 1795 | 2.00 | 75 | 1840 | | |
| 1794 | \$10.50 | \$6.00 | 1803 | \$2.00 | \$0.75 | 1796 | 40.00 | 18.00 | 1841 | Pattern \$5.00 to \$10.00 each. | Pattern \$5.00 to \$10.00 each. |
| 1795 | 1.75 | 1.00 | 1805 | 2.25 | 90 | 1797 | 60 | 25 | 1842 | | |
| 1796 | 75.00 | 43.00 | 1806 | 1.90 | 75 | 1800 | 50 | 25 | 1843 | | |
| 1797 | 73.50 | 43.00 | 1807 | 1.90 | 75 | 1802 | 3.75 | 1.60 | 1844 | | |
| 1801 | 7.50 | 4.00 | 1808 | 1.00 | 75 | 1803 | 10 | 5 | 1845 | | |
| 1802 | 8.00 | 4.75 | | | | 1804 | 5 | 3 | 1846 | | |
| 1809 to 1814, uncirculated | | | | | \$1.00 | 1805 | 50 | 15 | 1847 | | |
| 1815 | | | | 8.00 | \$5.00 | 1806 | 50 | 5 | 1848 | | |
| 1817 to 1836 | | | | 75 | 60 | 1807 | 50 | 4 | 1849 | 15 | 10 |
| 1836, rough edge | | | | 5.00 | 4.00 | 1808 | 50 | 5 | 1850 | 5 | 3 |
| 1837 to 1850 | | | | 75 | 60 | 1109 | 15 | 3 | 1851 | 5 | 3 |
| 1851 | | | | 1.00 | 75 | 1810 | 50 | 20 | 1852 | 6.00 | 3.00 |
| 1852 | | | | 7.00 | 5.00 | 1811 | 3.25 | 1.00 | 1853 | 5 | 8 |
| 1853 to 1878 | | | | 75 | 60 | 1825 | 6 | 3 | 1854 | 5 | 8 |
| 1879 to 1881 | | | | 1.00 | 90 | 1826 | 6 | 3 | 1855 | 5 | 8 |
| U. S. QUARTER-DOLLARS. | | | | | | 1828 | 6 | 3 | 1856 | 25 | 15 |
| DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | 1829 | 6 | 3 | 1857 | 25 | 15 |
| 1796 | \$13.00 | \$2.00 | 1818 | \$0.50 | \$0.35 | 1831 | 6.00 | 3.00 | | | |
| 1804 | 5.00 | 2.25 | 1819 | 50 | 35 | 1832 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| 1805 | 2.25 | 1.00 | 1820 | 50 | 35 | 1833 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| 1806 | 1.75 | 50 | 1821 | 50 | 35 | 1838 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| 1807 | 1.75 | 50 | 1822 | 60 | 50 | 1844 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| 1815 | 1.75 | 50 | 1824 | 3.50 | 1.00 | | | | | | |
| U. S. DIMES. | | | | | | AMERICAN COLONIAL COINS. | | | | | |
| DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | 1721, Louisiana | | | FINE | GOOD | |
| 1796 | \$5.00 | \$2.75 | 1804 | \$15.80 | \$8.60 | 1722 | | | \$2.50 | \$1.00 | |
| 1797 | 11.00 | 3.75 | 1805 | 2.40 | 1.25 | 1767, R. F., Louisiana | | | 2.00 | 1.40 | |
| 1798 | 4.50 | 3.00 | 1807 | 2.40 | 1.25 | 1767, without R. F., Louisiana | | | 3.00 | 1.50 | |
| 1800 | 14.75 | 6.50 | 1809 | 2.75 | 1.60 | 1766, no stamps | | | 2.50 | 1.50 | |
| 1801 | 10.75 | 4.50 | 1811 | 2.75 | 1.60 | 1773, Virginia | | | 1.25 | 50 | |
| 1802 | 11.75 | 4.50 | 1814 | 55 | 20 | 1773, smaller size, Virginia | | | 75 | 25 | |
| 1803 | 6.75 | 3.50 | 1822 | 6.00 | 3.50 | U. S. A. bar cent | | | 4.50 | 3.00 | |
| U. S. HALF-DIMES. | | | | | | 1785, head-Justice; Immune Columbia | | | 15.00 | 10.00 | |
| DATE | FINE | GOOD | DATE | FINE | GOOD | 1785, "Vermonts Respublica" | | | 3.00 | 1.00 | |
| 1794 | \$10.00 | \$4.75 | 1801 | \$4.75 | \$3.00 | 1785, Vermontis | | | 5.00 | 2.00 | |
| 1795 | 1.50 | 40 | 1802 | 115.00 | 42.00 | 1786, Vermontensium Respublica | | | 2.50 | 1.00 | |
| 1796 | 3.50 | 3.75 | 1803 | 7.00 | 3.75 | 1786, "Vernon Auctori" | | | 60 | 30 | |
| 1797 | 3.40 | 3.30 | 1805 | 10.75 | 5.50 | 1787 | | | 50 | 25 | |
| 1800 | 1.40 | 75 | 1846 | 4.00 | 2.75 | 1787 | | | 75 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | 1786, baby head; "Vernon Auctori" | | | 1.50 | 50 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, "Vernon Auctori" | | | 1.00 | 50 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, "Britannia" | | | 1.00 | 40 | |
| | | | | | | 1786, New Jersey, Nova Casarea | | | 1.00 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, "large size" | | | 60 | 25 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, "smaller size" | | | 30 | 10 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, "K pluribus" | | | 3.00 | 2.00 | |
| | | | | | | 1788 | | | 50 | 20 | |
| | | | | | | 1788, "Fox type" | | | 1.50 | 40 | |
| | | | | | | 1788, "Head left" | | | 4.00 | 2.50 | |
| | | | | | | 1787, Auctori Connee | | | 25 | 10 | |
| | | | | | | 1785-6-8 | | | 50 | 20 | |
| | | | | | | 1785 (Negro head); Auctori Connee | | | 1.00 | 50 | |
| | | | | | | 1785 (laughing head) | | | 1.50 | 75 | |
| | | | | | | 1785 head to left | | | 50 | 20 | |
| | | | | | | 1786-7-8 | | | 50 | 25 | |
| | | | | | | 1786-7 "Et lib Inde" | | | 1.00 | 50 | |
| | | | | | | 1787-8 "Auctori Connect" | | | 1.00 | 30 | |

A wide variety of early silver coins were offered in this September 1881 advertisement. Note the many extremely rare pieces offered in two different grades, including 1802 half dimes!

...

I don't happen to have a duplicate, do you?

Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, March 1870, page 46:

UNIQUE

We had the pleasure of picking up a copper half dime of 1795 recently, *supposed* to be "trial piece" from the United States Mint. Has any one of our readers a duplicate? If not, we pronounce the piece *unique* until further developments disprove the title.



*"One day the two of us **walked into** Mason's in Philadelphia, and both of us were immediately used to fill an order!"*

If it were only this easy

Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, February 1871, page 22:

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER

"Coincidences."

The coin dealer is often put to his wit's ends to obtain a coin for some special order, and it is not always the want of a rare piece. We remember on one occasion we had a mail order to fill for United States silver coins, and two very common pieces, the 1796 and 1797 dollars were wanting. We searched among the brokers, in vain, for these two dates and for one week used every exertion to obtain them from collectors. After repeated enquiries, searches and efforts of various kinds we succumbed to this ordinary difficulty and proceeded to write to our correspondent, explaining the matter and enclosing the money received for the pieces. As we were superscribing the envelope, a gentleman entered with a small bag of silver, which we purchased and found, to our great joy, among the lot the two dollars we were in search of. It was amusing to notice, for a week subsequent to this coincidence, how numbers the silver dollars of 1796 and 1797 had become. Brokers, collectors and others were daily offering them for sale.....

Is this why 1796 half dollars are rare and expensive today?

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, September, 1879, page 13:

A WARNING TO COIN COLLECTORS

We grieve to announce the following melancholy event, which we find circulating the rounds of the press:

“KILLED BY A COIN.- A young man died in Binghampton last week from the effects of swallowing a silver half dollar, dated 1796, about three weeks ago. He was tossing the coin in the air and catching it in his mouth to amuse a child, when it lodged in his throat and passed into his stomach.”

The sympathies of all true numismatists will be enlisted in behalf of the bereaved family and friends of this unique Coin Collector, and the loss *of the coin* will be sincerely felt! Thus we lost the last hope of completing our series of U. S. Silver Half Dollars. Why will the unsophisticated collector turn his stomach into a Coin Cabinet and destroy at once his own and the coin's circulation? Perhaps the Coroner is a numismatist: if so, there is yet hope that a *tarnished* 1796 half dollar will, at no distant day, be offered at a public coin sale. Let us wait and hope. No “peace to his remains,” until the pieced swallowed is exhumed and pronounced genuine! We offer \$100 for the recovery of the coin!

...

Your typical purchases for a coin dealer or “How was your show?”

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, September, 1879, page 17:

We are proud to report that we have recently picked up the following rare Coins: 1794 dollar, 1851 dollar, 1796 and '97 half dollars, 1804 uncirculated quarter dollar, 1797 and '98 dimes, 1802 half dime, uncirculated 1799 cent, and a Washington silver half dollar, 1792. Also pattern dollars of 1839, and a variety of very fine early silver and copper U.S. coins of scarcity.

1787 Flowing Hair half dollar exhibited

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, March 1880, page 32:

NEW WRINKLES IN 1880

Mr. W. Thatcher, of this city, has exhibited to us a most remarkable Half-Dollar, resembling in bust, eagle, legends and wreath the U.S. Half-Dollar of 1794; but differing in stars and date. Obverse to the right, six stars, left of the bust, either stars dated 1787! Reverse precisely like the ordinary 1794 Half- Dollars. We pronounce the coin an undoubted counterfeit; although, by its worn appearance, it may have been made fifty years ago.

...

In December 1881, Mason noted the Haseltine Type Table sale of early U.S. silver was to be offered to the public. Catalog and prices realized cost fifty cents. The author paid a little more than this for his catalog with prices realized.

Haseltine Type Table collection to be offered

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald,
December 1881 page 53:

Public Coin Sales in December

During the present month nearly all prominent "coin dealers" will offer collections and "stock on hand" at auction coin sales. These sales will take place in New York, Philadelphia, Lancaster and Baltimore. A few of the catalogues of these sales are out; but not having received sufficient copies to supply our "bidding patrons," we would refer them to the above parties for catalogues. Haseltine's catalogue of "Type Table" silver coins (collected and ably described by Mr. Haseltine), costs fifty cents, and includes the price list of the sale, when issued, worth five dollars to any collector of American silver coins....

CATALOGUE
OF
JOHN W. HASELTINE'S
TYPE TABLE
OF
U. S. Dollars, Half Dollars & Quarter Dollars,
ALSO,
MANY OTHER RARE AND FINE COINS,
INCLUDING
UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN GOLD; SILVER AND BRONZE
MEDALS; JACKSONIAN TOKENS; ANCIENT COINS; PATTERN
PIECES; FRACTIONAL CURRENCY; CONFEDERATE BONDS;
WAR ENVELOPES; AUTOGRAPHS; PROOF SETS; UNITED
STATES CENTS AND HALF CENTS; COLONIALS, ETC.
TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION BY
MESSRS. BANGS & CO.,
AT THEIR SALESROOMS,
Nos. 739 and 741 Broadway, New York,
ON
MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS,
November 28, 29 & 30, 1881,
COMMENCING AT HALF PAST TWO O'CLOCK.

Catalogue by John W. Haseltine.

PHILADELPHIA:
BAVIS & PENNSPACKER, STEAM POWER PRINTERS, No 23 S. TENTH ST.
1881.

Get your 1804 half dollar or dollar here!

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, March 1880, page 32:

HIS SIGN

A dealer in curiosities and coins, on Seventeenth street, in this city, has in his show window a frame of U.S. silver coins, to which is attached a show card bearing the following inscription:-

ALL DATES OF DOLLAR AND HALF-DOLLARS
FOR
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND SILVER WEDDINGS

Parties desiring to secure U.S. Dollars of 1804 to 1835 inclusive, and Half- Dollars of 1804 and 1806, to commemorate the happiest events in their lives-their marriages, and their births,-will please take notice.

Photo of the obverse of the Eric P. Newman specimen of an 1804 half dollar alteration.

*Photo courtesy of Eric P. Newman
and Rory Rea.*



WANTED.—At good prices, 1804 and 1838 Half Dollars as pictured in this advertisement.



**LOOK
and
READ.**



As there seems to be a belief extant that there are 1804 U. S. half dollars, we will pay fifty dollars each for same if discovered, and five dollars each for 1838 half dollars, having the letter "O" between date and bust.

MASON & CO., 143 N. 10th Street, Philadelphia.

Wanted – 1804 Half Dollars! Might this December 1880 advertisement have tempted someone to alter a half dollar date to read "1804?"

I'll take two of each!

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, March 1882, page 58:

U.S. DOLLARS of 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803 in good to fine condition, sent, postage fee, 10 per cent less than any price list published. Mason & Co., 32 North 13th Street, Phila.

...

So this is the secret to cleaning your silver coins, including proofs!

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald, March 1882, page 58:

CLEANING COINS

A silver coin should be simply washed in hot suds (use white castile soap), rinsed off in clean hot water, and wrapped in a linen towel or handkerchief. A proof silver coin that has become tarnished can be quickly restored with muriatic acid, if immediately rinsed in hot water and thrown in a box of boxwood sawdust.

...

And we're still asking this question today....

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald,
March 1882, page 65:

Curious 1815 Quarter-Dollar

We recently purchased an 1815 U.S. quarter-dollar in bright, uncirculated condition, having a small "L" on field near top of obverse, apparently from the die, though incused. Can our readers throw any light on the "L" question?



Photo of 1815 quarter dollar counterstamped with the letter 'L'. Many theories abound for what the L (and E) counterstamps stand for on 1815 and 1825 quarter dollars. Even back in the late 1800s it appears that the same question was being asked! Photo courtesy of Rory Rea.



Another Form of Rarity

Phil Evans

I really can't speak for anyone else, but I very much enjoy finding a reason to re-study the coins in my Capped Bust half collection. Mine is by no means a "premium" collection. It averages a modest VF34+ grade, and numbers 431 of the Overton varieties. The grades run from a couple of R5 AG to a couple of Uncirculateds.

It recently occurred to me that I had never seen any discussion of one very interesting subject. Just what is a fully struck Capped Bust half, and how common is such a coin?

First, it is necessary to set up some guidelines. What should "fully struck" really mean?

To begin with, anyone who has tried to learn about bust halves will become aware that there are several factors which will have a great effect on the strike of the coin. The planchet may be uneven, the force applied by the operators of the screw press, the wear condition of the dies in use- any one of these make a significant difference in what each individual coin will look like. It's a crap shoot going in, for each and every coin being struck.

Now, what will actually constitute a FULLY struck Capped Bust half?

Obverse

The profile will be sharp, also the hair detail and the facial features, headband and LIBERTY will be distinct. These are a given, and very often are found well done- but now, the tough stuff!

The drapery at the end of the bust must be full and sharp. This is often "mushy" to not really there at all.

The Stars- Aye, there's the rub! (Or rather, there's the lack of detail). How many Capped Bust halves have you ever seen or owned where all thirteen stars are fully stuck up? By that, I mean, ALL have full center detail. No indistinct or fully flat stars at all. In my collection I have several coins which have twelve well struck, or eleven- but all thirteen? Quite unlikely. This item alone will disqualify a great many coins. I have found that only Extra Fine 45 and higher grades can really be used for this search, because as the grade goes down wear rears its ugly head, and details are gone because

of it. If the stars are “all there”, or nearly so, the lettering and date will also be present, and sharp, in most cases.

Reverse

Now we really get “picky”. E PLURIBUS UNUM must be distinct and sharp. The killer items on the reverse are the claws of the eagle, and the arrowheads. Take a good magnified look at the eagles’ claws- both right and left. Note what should be the distinct horizontal bands of cartilage above the actual talons. Very, very seldom are these bands full and rounded. Usually, even on a “decent” strike, one side or the other will be flattened and indistinct. This item alone will disqualify a lot of really nice coins from being called FULLY STRUCK.

The arrowheads are another problem. To be termed fully struck the shaft of the arrowhead must be plainly visible well up into the body of the arrowhead on all three of them! Again, some showing two shafts, but that upper one is a real stopper!

I mentioned earlier that only Extra Fine 45 and higher grades can really be tested for a full strike. In my rather modest collection I have 109 coins that meet this requirement. How many of that 109 would you think might meet the criteria I have outlined above, so as to be called “Fully Struck”?

Well, I have just TWO, which are “near misses”!! I can fault both for somewhat weak center detail on the stars one or two. Some detail is there, but I don’t think it is sharp enough to be called fully struck.

I am aware that certain strike characteristics will vary from hub to hub, and working die to working die, but would you agree on my definition of Fully Struck- and how many do YOU have in your collection?

As a rather interesting note, the two coins in my collection that I find are very close to being fully struck are dated 1826 and 1830- from obverse hubs 5 & 6, and, of course from reverse hub 2.

I think we have a new rarity to search for- a truly FULLY STRUCK CAPPED BUST HALF!



The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership
or direct them to our new website, www.jrcs.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Office Use Only

JRCS# _____

Type or Print

Name

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Middle Name)

Address

Date of Birth

(Month Date Year)

City

State

Zip

Phone ()

The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

____ Collector ____ Collector-Dealer ____ Dealer (Firm Name) _____

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

- a ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes
- b ____ Draped Bust Half Dimes
- c ____ Capped Bust Half Dimes
- d ____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes
- e ____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes
- f ____ Capped Bust Dimes
- g ____ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars

- h ____ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars
- i ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars
- j ____ Draped Bust Half Dollars
- k ____ Capped Bust Half Dollars
- l ____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars
- m ____ Draped Bust Dollars
- n ____ Gold Issues

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated: _____

(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # _____

Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):

I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

(Signature of Guarantor)

Relation to Applicant _____

Sponsor's Statement:

I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.
My JRCS member number is # _____

(Signature of Sponsor Member)

John Reich Collectors Society (Employer Identification No. 34-1427467) is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, gifts and contributions made to John Reich Collectors Society may be deducted as provided in the Internal Revenue Code.

Back issues of The John Reich Journal are still available to members for \$9.00 each postpaid.
Visit www.jrcs.org for a complete listing of the issues in stock.

